

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6318

BILL NUMBER: HB 1560

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 11, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Regulates Land Application of Wastewater.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Blanton

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires an annual permit from the Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for land application of wastewater on specific sites, regardless of whether the wastewater is treated. The bill requires a public hearing, notice to adjoining landowners, and inspection of the land before issuance of a permit. It prohibits the land application of wastewater within 1,000 feet of waters and property boundaries. It requires IDEM to investigate within 30 days a complaint concerning a land application permittee. It also provides that land application includes application on the soil surface.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: IDEM would need to hire additional staff to perform tasks assigned in the bill. If IDEM hired an additional 5 staff, additional personnel expenses are estimated at around \$250,000 per year, including fringe benefits and other indirect costs.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

The State Personnel Department (SPD) staffing report indicated that, as of December 15, 2008, IDEM had 47 vacant positions with salaries totaling \$1.7 M. Of the 47 vacant positions, 41 have been vacant for a year or less. IDEM reverted \$5.9 M to the state General Fund and \$14.4 M in all funds in FY 2008.

Explanation of State Revenues: The amount of revenue that will be generated by permit fees is indeterminable. Fees are deposited in an environmental operations fund which is used to finance IDEM operations.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: IDEM.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: IDEM, SPD.

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